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THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the Bill for a general Naturalization of foreign Proteſtants. On the aboliſhing the Church-Wardens Names under an Inſcription ſet up with the Union-Arms in a Church near Lombard Street. *The State of the* African-*Trade, as carry'd on by the* European *Competitors.*

From Wednesday, February 23. to Saturday, February 26. 1709.

Obſ. WHAT's our Parliament a doing now, *Roger?*

Country-m. They are about a Bill of general Naturalization of foreign Proteſtants, which ſome People grumble at filthily, Maſter.

Obſ. I can eaſily gueſs who they be, *Roger.* I'll warrant you 'tis the Men of arbitrary Principles and reſtleſs Paſſions, and ſome of our narrow-ſoul'd Traders, that would have no Body eat Beef and Pudding, but themſelves, *tho' their Eyes ſtand out with Fatneſs, and they have more than their Hearts can wiſh.*

Country-m. You are right, Maſter; theſe are the Men.

Obſ. I can make no Doubt, *Roger*, but ſuch Perſons as were all along againſt allowing the *Scots* the Priviledge of natural Subjects, tho' born under the ſame Allegiance, before the Union, and have been for cramping and denying them the Priviledges ſtipulated ſince; and bringing the Articles of ſo ſolemn a Treaty under Debate, will be againſt a general Naturalization; and I am the more ſcandaliz'd at this, becauſe ſome who call themſelves Whigs, and would take it very ill not to be accounted ſome of the topping Men of the Party, have diſcover'd leſs Juſtice to the *Scots* in this Reſpect, than ſome of thoſe Gentlemen who are branded with the Name of Tories, tho' they have, on many publick Occaſions, acted more according to the Whig-Principle of Liberty and Property, than thoſe who abuſe the Name by their contrary Practice; and would, by that Means, make the Union uncapable of anſwering the End which all honeſt Men propos'd by it, *viz.* The ſtrengthening of the Revolution-Intereſt, the ſecuring of the Proteſtant Succeſſion, together with our Religion, and fundamental Liberties.

Country-m. I have often heard wiſe Men ſay, Maſter, that all Sorts of undue Impropriations and Inhancements of Priviledges and Trade, have ever been deſtructive to the Trade and Riches of Nations. However, I hope one great Objection againſt a general Act of Naturalization, is remov'd, ſince, upon hearing Council for the City of *London*, the Committee for the Bill have receiv'd an Inſtruction to preſerve the Priviledges of the City.

Obſ. As 'tis but juſt on the one Hand, *Roger*, that the greateſt Regard imaginable ſhould be had to the City of *London*, which, under God, has been one of the chief Supports of our Religion and Liberty, ſo on the other, 'tis as reaſonable, that the Citizens ſhould not ſuffer themſelves to be impos'd on by ſelf-deſigning Men, who would make a Stale of their Liberties, to ingroſs all the Trade and Credit of the Nation, if they could, into their own Hands, and bring the Government, as well as the Subjects, into an abſolute Dependance upon themſelves and their Supporters.

Country-m. As thoſe Men are Enemies to the Naturalization, Maſter, out of their own ſelfiſh Views, the others are for raiſing the *Poſſe* of the Church againſt it, and alledge, that ſuch a Naturalization will encreaſe her Danger, which they think too great already.

Obſ. It ſeems to be a Paradox, *Roger*, to aſſert, that a Proteſtant Church can be in Danger by an Increaſe of Proteſtants, who own the ſame Doctrine with her ſelf; but the general Intereſt of the Nation ought to take Place of the narrow Whimſies of Bigots, who are for building the Church upon another Foundation, than our Saviour and his Apoſtles did, *viz. One Lord, one Faith, and one Baptiſm.* It was a wiſe and juſt Obſervation of that Great Citizen and Patriot, Sheriff *Bethel*, in his *Intereſt of Princes and States*, pag. 31. *That whereas* Holland, *according to Calculation, had ſix Souls for one Acre of Ground, he fear'd* England *had ſcarce one Soul for ten Acres.* If it was ſo when he writ, *Roger*, which was in a Time of Peace, we may be ſure the Number of our People is much decreas'd, by ſo long and ruinous a War; and we are plainly told by the Spirit of God, from the Mouth of the wiſeſt King that ever was in the World, *Prov.* 14 and 28. *That in the Multitude of People, is the King's Honour; but in the Want of People, is the Deſtruction of the Prince:* By which 'tis plain, that thoſe Men who oppoſe a general Naturalization of Proteſtants, are neither good Chriſtians, nor good Subjects. Our wiſe Neighbours, the *Dutch*, are a very good Inſtance to convince us of the Neceſſity of taking all ſuch Meaſures as are proper for increaſing the Number of our People. We ſee, that by encouraging Trade, making Impoſitions on it eaſy, by ſuffering all People to enter into it, and keeping low the Intereſt of Money, and by a frugal Management of their publick Revenues, and hindering them from being ſquander'd away by exorbitant Sallaries and Penſions, or pocketted up by thoſe who have the Management of them, that tho' their Country be little, in many Places barren, and in others marſhy, ſo that it is not able to nouriſh an eighth Part of their Inhabitants, yet they are become, in a Century or two, able to ſtand their Ground againſt the moſt formidable Powers of *Europe*; whereas, had they purſu'd the narrow and ſelfiſh Views of ſome of our Politicians, they muſt have ſunk long ago, or at beſt have continu'd the poor and diſtreſs'd States of *Holland*, inſtead of entitling themſelves, as they may juſtly do, *High and Mighty.* We hear of no ſuch Thing among them, as cramping of Trade, denying their Fiſher-men ſtipulated Encouragements, and forcing them to beg, ſtarve, or run to other Countries. They know the Fiſhery to be a richer Mine, than any the World can afford; and therefore cultivate it with the utmoſt Diligence, and are ſo far from ſuffering their Caſh to ſtagnate, or run only in one Channel, that they encourage their very Servants to venture their Money in it.

Country-m. I remember, Maſter, that you formerly gave Inſtances of wretched Miſmanagements of their naval Power, by aſpiring Princes, and greedy Courtiers, who, in order to attain to an abſolute Power, ſuffer'd their Trade to decay for Want of Convoys and Protection, and ſo they could have numerous Armies by Land, did not care what became of their Fleet; but they ſoon apply'd an effectual and vigorous Remedy to thoſe growing Diſorders, and by their Lenity in Affairs of Religion, prevented their ambitious Stadtholders from erecting a Tyranny upon their Church-Diviſions.

Obſ. You ſay very well, *Roger*; therefore there can be no Argument from Religion againſt a general

neral Naturalization of Proteſtants: But to prevent Papiſts from taking the Benefit of it, 'tis neceſſary, that thoſe who are naturaliz'd, ſhould not only take the Oaths to the Government, but be oblig'd to renounce the Pope's Supremacy, and Tranſubſtantiation, which no Papiſt can do, if he be true to his Principle; and as a farther Security, let them be oblig'd to bring Certificates that they have been in the Communion of ſome Proteſtant Church, and to enter themſelves into the Fellowſhip of one or other Denomination of Proteſtants here, or to erect Proteſtant Churches of their own. We all know what Pretenſions our High-Church-men have made of late, of their being approv'd by foreign Churches; therefore, except they will proclaim their Want of Modeſty and Sincerity to the World, they can't argue againſt the Naturalization on that Head.

Country-m. We muſt adjourn this Subject to our next, Maſter. Here's a Letter to you, with an Account, that the Name of the Gentleman who ſet up the Union-Arms in a Church near *Lombard-Street*, with this Inſcription under it, *Set up at the Charge of the united Pariſhes, in that memorable Year of Union*, 1707. J. M. B.B. A.R. S.B. *Church-Wardens*, is not only ſtruck out, but thoſe of the other Church-Wardens alſo, by a high-flying Church-Warden, and a pack'd Veſtry, which has defac'd that fine Piece of Workmanſhip, one of the beſt of its Kind in *England*, after it had ſtood 56 Weeks, admir'd by all who love Art; that they alſo us'd their Endeavours to hinder that Gentleman's being a Common-Council-man, but not with the like Effect; for his fellow Citizens knew his Worth better than thoſe hot-headed Pariſhioners tho' he ſerv'd their Pariſh honeſtly and faithfully for three Years together.

Olf. While we have ſuch unnatural Heats among our Selves, *Roger*, kept up by ranting and ſlavish 30th of *January* Sermons, and otherwiſe, inſtead of truly humbling our ſelves, and giving a faithful Account of the Faults both of Prince and People, which brought thoſe Calamities upon the Nation; I can't ſee how foreign Proteſtants can be much encourag'd to ſettle with their Flocks among us, which would enlarge, and not diminiſh our Strength and Trade; therefore I hope our Legiſlators will take into their prudent Conſideration, the removing of ſuch ſtumbling Blocks out of the Way, as makes the Ordination and Adminiſtration of their Miniſters null, and gives them juſt Occaſion of Scandal, while they ſee ſo great a Number of our own People, who agree with them, ſo far from being treated as natural-born Subjects and true Proteſtants, that they are rather us'd like Baſtards; otherwiſe we cannot promiſe our Selves, that the Naturalization-Act, how good ſoever it may be in it ſelf, will produce the Effects that we may reaſonably expect from it.

Country-m. Here's another Letter for you, Maſter, containing the State of the *African* Trade, as carry'd on by all the *European* Competitors, as follows:

'THIS Coaſt from Cape *Blanco* to Cape *Negro*, 'is in Length about three thouſand Miles, 'in which Space there is a free Trade upon the Faith 'of the Natives, without Forts and Caſtles, except in 'about one hundred and ſixty Miles upon the *Gold*-'Coaſt, and one Caſtle at *Gore*, and one in *Gambia*-River.

'This Trade is drove by the *Engliſh Royal African-Company*, the *Dutch Weſt-India-Company*, the *French Senegal-Company*, and the *Engliſh* 10 *per Cent. Men*, the *Dutch Interlopers*, and the *Portuguese*; the latter have but one Fort, that we know of, at *Cuſho*, the *Dutch Interlopers* none, the *Engliſh* 10 *per Cent. Men* no Protection, tho' they pay for it, from Forts, or any Liberty of Trade in them; and yet theſe three laſt Sort of Traders, *viz. Engliſh* 10 *per Cent. Men*, and *Dutch Interlopers* and *Portugueſe*, carry on four Fifths, or five Sixths, of the whole Trade, according to the neareſt Eſtimate we can make.

'The State of this Trade, as carry'd on by the *Engliſh Royal African-Company*, and the 10 *per Cent. Traders*, is thus:

The *African Company's* Exports for Trade, beſides the 10 *per Cent.* Duty, amount in the 10 laſt Years, to 202160 *l.* the 10 *per Cent.* Mens Exports from *London*, *Briſtol*, and *America*, &c. amount to 63770 *l.* the Ships employ'd by the Company, amount to 128 Ships; the Ships employ'd by the *London*, *Briſtol*, and *American* Traders, amount to 648. the Number of Negroes carry'd into the Plantations by the *African-Company*, are about 20000. the Number of Negroes carry'd into the Plantations by the 10 *per Cent.* Men are 98160. by which Accounts, this Trade, as carry'd on by the Queen's Subjects, being divided into five Parts, more than four Parts of it have been carry'd on by the 10 *per Cent.* Traders, and not fully one fifth Part of it by the *African-Company*.

'This Trade being of great Advantage to *Great Britain*, and agreed to be ſo on all Hands, the Queſtion, in ſhort, is, What Method is fitteſt to carry on this Trade, whether by a joint Stock exclusive, or by a regulated Company, with Forts and Caſtles, or by an open Trade, without 'em?

Olf. This is a Matter of Weight, *Roger*, which deſerves Conſideration, and ſhall, God willing, be enter'd upon in our next.

Advertiſements.

☞ The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, repreſented in a Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe; together with an Appendix in anſwer to Mr. John Marten's Reflexions thereupon. By J. Shaeſter, Practitioner in Phyſick. Price of the Appendix alone bound 6d, together 3 s. 6d. Sold by R. Goſling, at the Mitre in Fleet-ſtreet, W. Carter at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the black Bull in Cornhill, H. Ribetteau at the Crown near Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, B. Picard at the 3 Bibles in the Minories, J. Harding in St. Martins-lane near Long-acre, J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, and by the Author at his Dwelling-houſe (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over againſt little Turn-ſtile.

Lately publiſh'd,

¶ Hickelty Pickelty, or a Medly of Characters adapted to the Age, relating to different Perſons and Perſwaſions, viz. A Preſbyterian, or a Female Hypocrite; a Beau; a Whig; a Lawyer's Clerk, or a Pot-Poet; an Attorney; a Detracter; a Bowling-Green; a Surgeon; a Player; a Tavern; a Coquet; a Pinner's-Hall Text-Driver; an unſanctify'd Dun, or a cruel Creditor; a Bayliff's Follower; the Exchange; Will's Coffee-houſe; a Wit; a Flatterer; a High-flyer; a Drunkard; a Priſon; a Courtier; a handſome Bar-keeper; a young Rake; a Whore-Maſter; a Pretender to Learning; a Tobacconiſt; an upſtart Sheriff, or a Country-Juſtice; a Sceptick in Religion; a Stock-Jobber. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 6 d.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scals, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-belly'd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N.B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

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